

Seattle HIV/AIDS Planning Council

Minutes ☿ May 12, 2008

4:00pm - 6:30pm

2100 Building – 2100 24th Avenue South, 98144

Council Members Present: *Richard Aleshire, Lina Ali, Amy Bauer, Shireesha Dhanireddy, Kate Elling, Brandie Flood, Melinda Giovengo, Bill Hall, Sarah Kent, Kieu-Anh King, Gerrie LaQuey, David Lee, Higinio Martinez, Marcos Martinez, Eric Miles, Andrew Murphy, Kris Nyrop, Arthur Padilla, Ron Padgett, Kevin Patz, Jodie Pezzi, Tony Radovich, Michael Raitt, David Richart, German Rodriguez, Pam Ryan, Erick Seelbach, Bob Wood*

Council Members Not Yet Appointed by the Executive Present: *Philip Doles, Ruth Njoroge*

Council Members Absent: *Charlie Curvin*

Council Members Not Yet Appointed by the Executive Absent: *Angela Williams*

Planning Council Staff Present: Jesse Chipps, Natalia Ospina (minutes)

Health Department Staff Present: Barb Gamble

Guests: Justin Hahn, Warren Leyh, Julie Loughran, Lisa Schafer, Matias Valenzuela, Ken (last name unknown)

Italics denote Planning Council Membership.

I. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements

- Introductions were made.
- Kris announced that the month of May is Hepatitis Awareness Month. The Hepatitis Education Project will be holding a forum on hepatitis at the downtown library on May 19th.
- David Richart reported on his participation at AIDSWatch 2008. He noted that Lifelong AIDS Alliance along with six other agencies is asking for the reauthorization of the Ryan White Act with a few minor changes. Senators Kennedy and Murray are supporting these changes. The Act is due to sunset in September, 2009. Elected officials will not be working on the Act this year because of the new election. When the new president takes office, he or she will have just six months until the Act sunsets. Therefore, there is a lot of support for making only minor tweaks.

II. Meeting Agenda

CHANGES:

- Add EIP Steering Committee Report
- Kris requested a couple of minutes to talk about a policy around syringe exchange.

☑ *The revised agenda was approved as written by acclamation.*

III. April Meeting Minutes

CHANGES:

- Barb will reword the sentence on page 2 (under Prevention Grantee Update) that begins with "A Peer-driven referral project..."
- Change "SGP" to "SPG" on page 3 (second bullet under SPG Update).
- Change "San Francisco" to "San Diego" on page 4 (second bullet under Membership Committee).

☒ *The April minutes were approved as amended by acclamation.*

IV. Prevention Demographics Forms

The Council completed the CDC community planning group demographics form.

V. Grantee Updates

PREVENTION:

Barb reported that the Prevention staff is in the middle of working on the same items as she reported on last month. They are currently focus testing and previewing the media campaign in selected areas, and are hoping to release the campaign in late May.

CARE:

Jesse reported that Jeff had nothing to report, and so did not attend tonight's meeting.

Jesse announced that she has received nine applications for the Needs Assessment Coordinator position (Harnik's old job). Tony, Arthur, Barb, Jeff and Jesse will be conducting interviews with three of the nine candidates.

VI. Committee Reports

MEMBERSHIP:

- No candidates are currently being considered for membership (those that were under consideration have since withdrawn their applications).
- The Committee met in May and revised the interview process and materials.
- Jim Elliott's term ended this month.
- Jodie will be on emeritus in June.
- German, Higinio and Erick Seelbach have all been appointed for their second terms.
- Jodie, Richard and Shireesha's first terms are ending soon.
- Brandie and Kris' second terms will be ending in November, along with David Richart's third term.
- Jesse is still waiting on references for Angela.
- The Council needs two white male consumers and one male Latino consumer. Council members were asked to contact Jesse if they know anyone interested in joining the Council.

☛ **ACTION ITEM:** *Jesse will send Marcos Martinez an application.*

CARE PRIORITIZATION AND ALLOCATION:

- The process was summarized in detail in the Council mailer (yellow sheet).
- The Committee agreed not to fund the transportation category, and instead recommends that agencies be required to include transportation as a line item in their budgets, or explain how it is covered by other funds.
- The largest funding increases were in primary care and medical case management. The transportation, substance abuse and ADAP categories were decreased, and all other services were essentially flat funded.
- The Committee maintained a 76.14%/24.86% core/support service split (HRSA mandates at least 75% of funds go to core services).
- The Council will vote on the Prioritization Committee's recommendations at the June meeting.
- The Care Prioritization Steering Committee will be meeting sometime after the June Council meeting to discuss the entire process and the final evaluations that have come in.
- Barb asked why methadone vouchers had been reduced (substance abuse category). Jodie noted that the Committee reduced the category because new funding was coming in from external sources (DSHS and the treatment expansion tax). Barb responded that Prevention had allocated extra funds for opiate replacement therapy to cover the anticipated shortfall, and since funding would be coming in from other sources these additional funds could be used towards something else. Jodie cautioned that it is still too early to tell how the substance use tax will impact PLWH.

AACT:

- The Committee took a break during prioritization and will be meeting again on May 19th. Consumers were encouraged to attend the meeting.
- The Committee will be addressing issues that came up during prioritization, including possibly conducting a "Prioritization 101" training for future prioritizations. The Committee will also be looking at some of the issues that came up in the needs assessment, such as returning to work issues that PLWH face.

EIP STEERING COMMITTEE:

- The EIP Steering Committee met last week.
- The Committee approved a new cost share schedule (effective 4/1/08). This creates a lower cost share for people with insurance as an incentive for individuals to carry comprehensive insurance.
- The Committee decided to table the discussion on increasing EIP eligibility to 500% of the federal poverty level for next year, due to state budget issues this year.

VII. Equity and Social Justice Initiative

Matias Valenzuela presented a video segment from "Unnatural Causes" (In Sickness and in Wealth) and initiated a long discussion on the County's new Equity and Social Justice Initiative. He distributed a handout, which will be attached to the official record. The following suggestions were made:

- Rather than wasting time and showing the video at the community level, show the video to people who are able to fund changes.
- Address the racially disproportionate enforcement of drug laws in the County ("the worst harm associated with drug use has to do with one's legal status").

- Perhaps it's not OK to assume that all community members are aware of the issues raised in the video segment. The videos should be shown on more mainstream channels rather than PBS.
- The community should organize and pressure politicians to stop development the way it has been in Seattle.
- Address not punishing people out of their Medicaid by not being able to work.
- Present the videos to wealthy communities who are not already involved in health disparity work.

VIII. Policy on Syringe Exchange

Kris reported that the prohibition to using federal funding for syringe exchange programs in the U.S. will likely fall soon. The two democratic presidential candidates, if elected, have agreed to lift the ban. There are indications that McCain may be willing to lift the ban should he be elected. Kris is involved in lobbying at the House and Senate level. He announced that in the next couple of months he will be drafting a letter for the Council to endorse, and will forward the letter to McDermot, Cantwell, and Murray asking them to take a more proactive role in lifting the ban. Melinda suggested that the letter go out to other County members (not just McDermot).

IX. Other Business/Next Meeting

The Council will be voting on the Care Prioritization and Allocation plan at the June Council meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 9, 2008, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. at the **2100 Building, 2100 24th Ave. S., Seattle 98144**